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**FORMER 4TH GRADE TEACHER PLEADS GUILTY
TO FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

United States Attorney Jane J. Boyle announced today that Charles Alan Snooks, age 31, of Sunray, Texas, pled guilty today in federal court in Amarillo, Texas, before the Honorable United States District Judge Mary Lou Robinson to three counts of an indictment that charged him with child pornography crimes. Specifically, Snooks pled guilty to one count of Sexual Exploitation of Children, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2251; one count of Receipt and Distribution of Child Pornography, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A; and one Criminal Forfeiture count. Snooks faces a maximum sentence of 35 years imprisonment, a \$500,000 fine and could be ordered to pay restitution. He will be ordered to forfeit to the United States all computer equipment used in his crimes and any property or proceeds he obtained directly or indirectly as a result of his crimes. Sentencing will be in approximately six to eight weeks.

As part of the plea agreement, Snooks has agreed to cooperate with the United States Customs Service and other investigating agencies in identifying potential victims of his illegal conduct and has agreed to the revocation of his teaching certificate.

According to documents filed in Court, on March 20, 2002, the Broadview Heights, Ohio, Police Department executed a search warrant on the residence of David Schneider based upon probable cause that Schneider was in possession of child pornography and had sexually molested a minor male. Based on forensic evidence obtained from Schneider's computer, a suspect, Charles Alan Snooks was identified and on October 10, 2002, United States Customs Service agents executed a federal search warrant at Snooks' residence in Sunray and arrested him pursuant to a federal arrest warrant.

The investigation revealed that for approximately three years, Schneider had periodically forwarded child pornography to Charles Snooks, also known on-line as "Cumulus," who was a teacher in the Dumas school district, having taught fourth grade at Cactus Elementary School since 1997. Schneider first met Snooks in an ICQ pedophilia group.

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Snooks admitted that he had downloaded "tons" of child pornography images since 1997. Numerous images of child pornography were discovered on his computer hard drive and on CDs.

Review of his hard drive and CDs revealed more than 500 images containing child pornography or movie files containing child pornography. These images had been shipped in interstate or foreign commerce.

Snooks admitted that he had participated in sexually explicit conduct with a child that was recorded or filmed, including oral sex, inappropriate touching and masturbation. Snooks admitted to producing a sexually explicit video tape of a minor male and himself. During the search at Snooks' residence, a video camera was discovered and the tape in the camera revealed an adult male engaging in various sex acts with a minor male between the ages of 10 and 13. Snooks admitted that the adult male on the tape was in fact him and identified the minor male.

Further investigation has revealed that sexually explicit images have been taken of at least one other child. The minor male stated that on each occasion that Snooks took pictures or movies of him, Snooks would display a pistol after the images were taken. Snooks admitted he used, persuaded and enticed minors to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing visual depictions of this conduct. The visual depictions were produced using materials that had been mailed, shipped, or transported across state lines or in foreign commerce.

The investigation was conducted by agents of the United States Customs Service, Dallas Office; United States Postal Inspection Service; the Department of Public Safety; and the Sunray, Texas, and Cactus, Texas, Police Departments. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Christy L. Drake of the Amarillo Office of the United States Attorney's Office.

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